

19. SHELL INJURY IN A FRESHWATER TURTLE
TRIONYX GANGETICUS (CUVIER)

(With a text-figure)

Unlike that of normal specimens, the carapace of a turtle collected in 1979 from Betwa river, Madhya Pradesh was posteriorly incomplete above the tail. The notch was 3.5 cm deep and thus the tail was clearly visible to the out-side (Fig. 1). The turtle measured 42 cm in carapace length.

It is presumed that the notch had appeared as a result of injury to the shell. Although reptiles have 'substantial powers' in healing wounds and regenerating lost parts, in the present case the injury may have been severe due to which regeneration is incomplete.

I thank Dr. L. A. K. Singh for comments on the MS.

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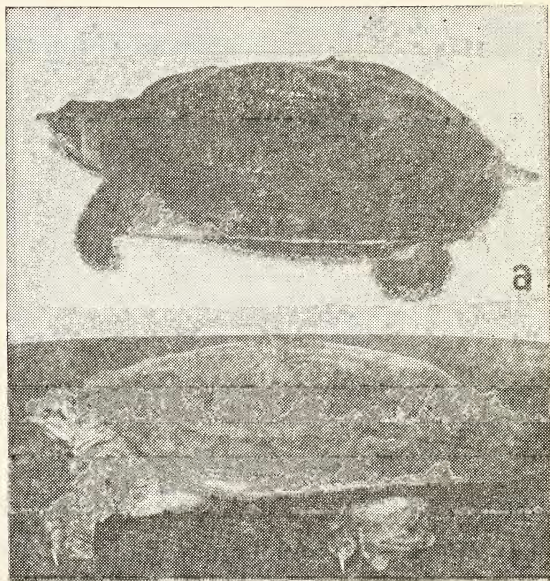


Fig. 1. The soft-shelled freshwater turtle *Trionyx gangeticus* with a notched carapace (a); compared with an intact carapaced turtle of the same species (b).

R. J. RAO

20. ASSOCIATION OF ROCK PYTHON (*PYTHON MOLURUS*)
WITH PORCUPINE (*HYSTRIX INDICA*)

During winter Pythons can be seen more often in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. There are several points called 'Python points' in the Park, where they can be seen frequently in and around burrows mostly under *Salvadora* bushes. In one of these points, near the entrance of the burrow, on the freshly exca-

vated soil, spoors and quills of porcupine were seen. This vetted our curiosity to check if pythons and porcupines co-exist.

On 30th November 1985 we saw during the day 4 pythons going into the hole. Observations throughout the night (from 17.15 hrs. to 7.15 hrs.) revealed the following facts.